



A GRIEF OBSERVED

Grieving With Hope



Warm-Up Question:

Share an event or season in life that caused you to really grieve?

READ: John 11:1-6, 17-44; 1 Thes. 4:13-18

I. GRIEVING WITH HONESTY

- ▶ How does Jesus demonstrate the need to grieve in John 11? How do the Psalms confirm the need to express our emotions by grieving? (See Psalm 13)
- ▶ What do you think about Jesus having such great love for Lazarus and yet intentionally waiting a few days until he died (v.6)?
- ▶ How are you with grieving? Do you allow yourself to be angry at God or grieve in the midst of your suffering?
- ▶ Have you ever doubted God's goodness and presence in the midst of grief?

II. GRIEVING WITH HOPE

- ▶ 1 Thes. 4:13 mentions grieving without hope. How have you seen grief without hope, and how's it look different from one who grieves with hope?
- ▶ From this passage, what is the hope we are to "encourage one another" (v. 18) in the midst of death?
- ▶ From John 11:21-24, how did Martha demonstrate a grief with hope? Why should we grieve with hope having read this chapter?
- ▶ Why is living in real, authentic community with other believers so crucial when times of grief come?
- ▶ So many of the Psalms of lament point us to the need to worship in the midst of our grief. How might this give us helpful perspective to us in our grief?
- ▶ How does the birth, life and death of Jesus give us assurance that God understands our grief and that we can trust he is good to us in the midst of it?

**SHARE ANY REASONS FOR CURRENT GRIEF,
AND THEN SPEND A FEW MINUTES GRIEVING
TO GOD WITH HOPE TOGETHER**

Quotes from "A Grief Observed" by CS Lewis

Grief is like a long valley, a winding valley where any bend may reveal a totally new landscape.

We were promised sufferings. They were part of the program. We were even told, 'Blessed are they that mourn,' and I accept it. I've got nothing that I hadn't bargained for.

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Scriptures Used

John 11:1 Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. **2** It was Mary who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was ill. **3** So the sisters sent to him, saying, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." **4** But when Jesus heard it he said, "This illness does not lead to death. It is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it."

John 11:5 Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. **6** So, when he heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

John 11:17 Now when Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. **18** Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off, **19** and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother. **20** So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary remained seated in the house. **21** Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. **22** But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you." **23** Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." **24** Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." **25** Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, **26** and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?" **27** She said to him, "Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world."

John 11:28 When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary, saying in private, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." **29** And when she heard it, she rose quickly and went to him. **30** Now Jesus had not yet come into the village, but was still in the place where Martha had met him. **31** When the Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary rise quickly and go out, they followed her, supposing that she was going to the tomb to weep there. **32** Now when Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet, saying to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." **33** When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in his spirit and greatly troubled. **34** And he said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." **35** Jesus wept. **36** So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" **37** But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man also have kept this man from dying?"

John 11:38 Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. **39** Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, by this time there will be an odor, for he has been dead four days." **40** Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?" **41** So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. **42** I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me." **43** When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out." **44** The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

1Th. 4:13 But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. **14** For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. **15** For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. **16** For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. **17** Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. **18** Therefore encourage one another with these words.

Psa. 13:0 To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David.

Psa. 13:1 How long, O LORD? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me? **2** How long must I take counsel in my soul and have sorrow in my heart all the day? How long shall my enemy be exalted over me?

Psa. 13:3 Consider and answer me, O LORD my God; light up my eyes, lest I sleep the sleep of death, **4** lest my enemy say, "I have prevailed over him," lest my foes rejoice because I am shaken.

Psa. 13:5 But I have trusted in your steadfast love; my heart shall rejoice in your salvation. **6** I will sing to the LORD, because he has dealt bountifully with me.